



Gibbous RISING

September 1978

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A Feminist News Collective
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Sacto & Yolo Elsewhere

SACRAMENTO AGENCY FIRES WOMEN

Throughout the last seven months there has been an increase in the number of attacks against women in the form of sex discrimination and sexual harassment on the job.

The most recent attack was aimed at the Greater Sacramento Area Plan (GSAP) employee Karen Lang, who was fired from her position as Outreach Coordinator. After Lang received above standard performance records by the director of GSAP, Bob Banks, she received a four page letter of termination that was incomprehensible until the last page where Banks stated that she was being fired. There was nothing in the letter to substantiate the firing.

Although Banks prides himself on adhering to the needs of women and minorities, he has fired at least three black women from the staff without justification and without following personnel procedures.

GSAP is a project funded by the county of Sacramento to 1) initiate affirmative action in contract compliance on construction sites; monitor employment of minorities and women, and 2) to run a pre-apprenticeship program which places women and minorities in nontraditional jobs.

Put Down Your Weapons...

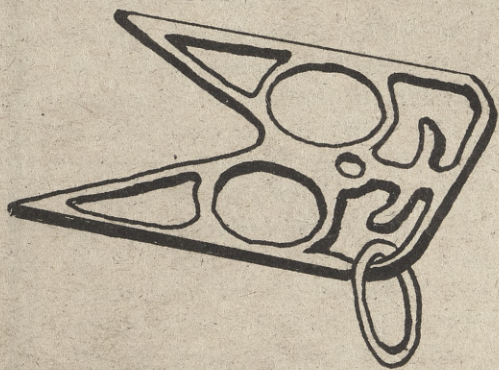
Do you own a "mystical cat" key-chain or "weapon" as the Sacramento District Attorney has labeled it? If so, beware, for you may be in violation of Penal Code 12020 of the California State Penal Code which describes and forbids the manufacture, sale or possession of dangerous weapons such as brass knuckles, metal disks with protruding sharp points or metal "stars" designed for throwing. The Attorney General, according to a Sacramento sheriff's deputy, does not agree. The Attorney General has ruled that individual cases must be assessed and the intent to use the "keychain" as a weapon must be demonstrated. But, who are the local law enforcement officials to worry....Since when is clarity of the law important when it applies to women defending themselves?

con't. on page 7

Karen Lang worked at GSAP for four years in various capacities ranging from handling affirmative action duties to the training of staff members, including her immediate supervisor at GSAP, Juanita Williams. Williams has also been attacked by GSAP. Ms. Williams was seriously ill and was away from the office for approximately three weeks when Lang was terminated. Lang reported that during Juanita's illness she received direction solely from Ms. Williams. Banks had told Lang that he would instruct her as to her job duties, but she never received any direction from him.

According to sources at GSAP, Banks has repeatedly expounded on Lang's competence and ability to perform her assigned duties. Many feel that Lang's firing and harassment, and the subsequent firing of Williams proves that GSAP's administration was purposefully firing black women.

GSAP has had trouble in the past with grievances based on racial and sexual discrimination. Prior to Bob Banks directorship, Jim Tamsey (former director), was found guilty of charges of sexual and (con't on back page)



**Linda Tillery in
Sacramento**
SEE BACK PAGE



We Are Your Own

The Sacramento Valley NO on 6 Committee held a rally, Tuesday, August 15 in front of the State Capitol. Thirteen speakers spoke in opposition to the Briggs Initiative which is Proposition 6 on your November ballot.

The highlight of the rally was the arrival of writer and political activist Frank Vel. Frank has been walking the entire length of the state of California as a personal commitment to expose the dangers of the Briggs Initiative. On his arrival in Sacramento he had already covered 759 miles, talking to government representatives, local TV and radio stations and anyone else who would listen.

California officials who appeared at the rally were State Legislators Alan Sieroty and Art Agnos, Majority floor leader Howard Berman, and Mayor Phil Isenberg. Other speakers included Gay activist Morris Kight, a political organizer who has successfully publicized the issue; Lisa Katz, lobbyist for Human Rights Advocates; Mary Bergen from the American Federation of Teachers; plus three others. There were also two unscheduled speakers.

Frank Vel, who will eventually cover 1,203 miles by September 13 urged all gay people to talk to 5 straight people about the devious Briggs Initiative. (con't on page 10)

Allen Chamberlin
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LETTERS

Editor;

Apparently the suggestion that there are some women in the community who are caught in the expectation and restrictions of 'role-behavior' struck a nerve (see editor's note on community reaction to *Dykes & Femmes*, August issue, *Gibbous Rising*).

One explanation for the furor is that some of us agreed that "feminism is the theory; lesbianism is the practice" therefore, any public criticism of lesbianism is unsettling.

The complex relationship between feminism and lesbianism can no longer be summed up in a linear model as theory-practice, that's obvious. Perhaps new thoughts will emerge in response to the discordant notes.

However, a second more likely accusation is that the article was inappropriate, that concerns of the lesbian "community" ought not to be discussed in a newspaper whose readership is not necessarily lesbians.

This second consideration assumes that there is a more "appropriate" press. Where? Gay men's newspapers? Feminist newsletters?

Dear GR,

Thanks for the great story on pg. 12 last month, you did an excellent job. I was really ecstatic to see something about our mighty system of justice.

The results were like jumping out of an airplane with no parachute. But what can a person do, who tries to protect herself and a pregnant girlfriend?

The jaws of justice have a mighty hard clamp on us all. One thing I would like to do is publish a pamphlet or newspaper to try and lessen the grip of such mighty jaws on the innocent and their protectors (the hookers).

Thanks once again for the superb article, it really lifted my spirits. Any follow up story or comments would be great.

Jenny

One of the Ladies of the Night

Dear Women,

We are a health project which provides specialized health care for the Indian people residing within a 50 mile radius of Sacramento. We have a dental clinic and we will be opening a medical clinic approximately October 1.

If you provide services to any people of Indian descent, we would appreciate your help in informing them of our health project. Also, please inform any Indian people you may know. We have four community health workers who are ready, willing and able to provide social services and assist with health problems.

We have a sliding scale payment plan which is adjusted according to our patients' income. We also accept Medi-Cal, Medi-Care and private health insurance.

Thank you for your assistance.

Maryjane Trujillo

Sacramento Urban Indian Health Project
2104 Capitol Ave. 441-0918

Obviously, there is no where else. But, ought it be printed at all; is it politically worthy of printing. In my opinion, power relationships are the essence of politics. Just as there is no clearer statement of power between men and women than their interactions on the street, there is no clearer statement of power in the lesbian community than interactions in the bar. *Dykes & Femmes* ought to have appeared because it is a public examination of a relational power imbalance which affects women.

Of course there would be controversy around the article. There was controversy around the assertion that rape and wife battery were manifestations of male privilege. We did not look at sexism until it was first pointed out. Examination is the first step towards healing.

Dykes and Femmes is not the definitive statement on lesbian relationships; it is a public comment on how closely some relationships resemble heterosexual styles. It brings about an examination. Examining who and where we are accelerates the change in human relationships which is essential to feminism.

I commend you for printing it.
Sister Hood,
Kit Mahoney

Sisters,

Women must participate in the campaign against the Briggs Initiative if it is to be defeated. We need to reach out to the women in California who are, after all, over a half of the voters. There are Gay women, married women, divorced women, homemakers, professional women, blue collar women, Black women, Latina women, Asian women, Native-American women, and all possible combinations thereof, all of whom need to be addressed as to how the Briggs Initiative affects them directly.

Through the local Committee Against the Briggs Initiative, women will be working together to speak to organize our sisters. We are co-sexual, and are committed to equal participation by women at all levels, including committee work, media representation, and chairpersons.

Women's outreach meetings are held regularly. The purpose of these meetings is to address issues, plan activities around the Briggs Initiative that concern women, and inform women of other committees, such as labor, religious, finance and media, and to encourage women's participation in those committees.

We need all women, gay, bi-sexual, and straight. Be as open or as discreet as necessary, give as much or as little time as possible, but get involved. If the Briggs Initiative is to be defeated, we need as many volunteers as possible.

Californians Against the Briggs Initiative

Dear Editor,

The reviewer of *Your Show* stated: "Your Show failed to state what women's art can be. Perhaps no overall statements were made, out of fear." Yet in another portion of the review she states: The show had "many pieces (that) reflected the artist's attempts to reach into herself, drawing heavily from experience and women's lives." The reviewer seems to be contradicting herself, for she has touched upon the overall statement of the show, which was the powerful statement which occurs in the creation of women's art. Any effort on the part of women artists that indeed expresses the inner self, women's experiences and their lives, deserves positive support and an approach with an interpretation that is non-patriarchal. Using the typical "male critical review of the arts" style, did a great dis-service to all the women involved with the *Your Show* event.

I hope that in the future, *Gibbous Rising* will make more of an effort to report on artistic events with a fullness and a totality that women artists need and deserve.

Sincerely,
Ellen Alford.



Gibbous RISING

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Unsolicited manuscripts welcomed. Deadlines: non-camera ready ads, 10th of every month; articles 18th of every month; camera ready ads, 21st of every month; new distributors, 25th of every month. No manuscripts will be returned.

The opinions expressed in *Gibbous RISING* do not reflect the views of the Sacramento Women's Center.

'...and Pictures were Taken.'

The material contained in this article is by the Ad Hoc Committee for Our Right to Privacy, a group of Houston lesbian-feminists. It concerns a very important issue which they feel needs to be addressed on both a local and national level: "In today's society, gayness is largely unacceptable. We are all painfully aware of this, and those of us who have chosen to come out publicly have done so with the awareness that we are taking certain risks. (We feel) protecting the privacy of the numerous members of the gay community who do not wish to come out publicly is vital to the success of the movement.

The Houston Lesbian/Gay community saw during its Gay Pride Week activities a betrayal of the trust of the participants at Town Meeting I (a gay event). Leaders who assumed positions of power and trust decided, against the published rules of Town Meeting I, to have pictures taken of all participants.... Despite promises to the contrary, no protection from the media was available. Some of the pictures have been released for publication, and any of these pictures may be subpoenaed at any time as evidence in criminal or civil courts."

On July 10, 1978, the Ad Hoc Committee for Our Right to Privacy took possession of most of the Town Meeting I photographs. They then negotiated to have all Town Meeting I photos put in a safe deposit box until the entire community was given an opportunity to decide what should happen to the pictures. This action was in direct response to the irresponsible manner in which the pictures were being released. It was also the culmination of a series of disillusioning events concerning Town Meeting I. This disillusionment was due in large part to the internal structure of Town Meeting I which, from the beginning had been unresponsive to the community and especially unresponsive to criticism. It is in the context of this lack of responsiveness that the picture incident can be most clearly understood.

Town Meeting started as an idea. Ray Hill was told of the idea; he took it to the Gay Political Caucus, which endorsed it. Meetings were held by the leaders of the gay community and the friends they 'approved of' and chose to tell of the meetings. Only after a core group was established and a structure set, was the community invited to become involved. The initial structure involved four co-chairs of an executive committee, with the members of the executive committee co-chairing twelve working committees.

The original structure called for an executive committee and executive committee co-chairs. Any major decisions were to be made by the executive and the executive committee co-chairs were to implement the decision. After the fourth executive committee meeting, when the committee voted contrary to the wishes of the executive committee co-chairs, things changed. From



that point on, the executive committee was regarded as a "brain trust" and was stripped of any decision making powers.

As the actual event of the Town Meeting grew closer, the issue of the media became a particularly heated issue. Despite promises in the Town Meeting I brochure that "you need not face any camera you do not want to face," various plans that were discussed included complete video-taping by Channel 8 and then allowing the commercial stations to get what they wanted to use from the video tapes. The final decision was no Channel 8 cameras except two paid professional gay photographers who would be available to take photos of booths that wanted to be photographed. This was not the situation. At the Town Meeting there were photographers taking pictures and video tapes of all areas and of all people. When Tom Doyle (member of the executive committee) rose to question the presence of a commercial television camera, he was expeditiously silenced. When five of the photographers who were there were questioned about their role, their reply was that they had been instructed by Ray Hill (executive committee co-chair) to take pictures of everyone. When one woman rose to speak, holding a notebook in front of her face, the photographers had to be asked several times before they stopped filming.

It was with an awareness of this general insensitivity that the Ad Hoc Committee first met. They felt that: 1) the pictures had been taken under false pretenses, and 2) once taken, they were being handled irresponsibly by the Town Meeting office. Ray Hill had released negatives to a woman who had walked into the office and said she wanted to look at all the pictures and borrow some negatives to print in a national gay publication. This woman was not asked her full name, address, or for any identification. She was not asked to reveal either how many or which negatives she was borrowing or where she could be reached if the film was not returned. She was just

after talking with us for about thirty minutes, had the police called to report a theft."

The women decided to negotiate for the following goals: 1) That all photographic material taken at the Town Meeting I be put in an inaccessible place with a moratorium on their availability until the new meeting. 2) That the gay participants of the Town Meeting I be allowed to decide conclusively what will happen to their own images on film. 3) That all materials be turned over to the new Town Meeting Committee to decide how to handle remaining photographic material. They felt these goals to be consistent with their priorities: "to protect the images part of any record; to give any Town Meeting I participant the opportunity to remove her or his image from any photographic record; to let participants know how their photos were being handled and how the Town Meeting I was conducted" and to highlight the fact that many of us were victimized by misrepresentation and lies."

"When Town Meeting I leadership broke their promise to the community to have media non-visible participant sections, they forfeited their privilege to retain sole control over the Town Meeting pictures. The structure and process by which the old Town Meeting came to be were totally unresponsive to community input and criticism because they concentrated power in a self-appointed few. These few then proceeded to speak for, decide for, and act for the community independent of any process through which the community could voice its will."

After much harassment, threats of imprisonment, threats of releasing remaining photographs to the press, and legal facilitating, all photographic materials held by the Ad Hoc Committee and the Town Meeting coalition were turned over to neutral facilitators to be held in an unknown safe asked to return the negatives after she had made copies of the ones that she wanted.

On July 8, the executive committee of the Town Meeting I decided to turn the films over to the Archives Committee where they would not be accessible to anyone. Ten women from the Ad Hoc Committee went to the Town Meeting office on July 10. They interviewed Ray Hill and asked to look at the pictures during the interview. "Hill allowed us to look at them and offered them to us for publication in Pointblank Times and other publications. During the interview some of us walked out with all the slides, negatives, and contact sheets in a paper bag. Then we told Hill and the other men present what we had done, why we had done it, and asked that he send someone with us to be with the pictures at all times so the Town Meeting officials could see exactly what we were doing with them. He refused to do so, and deposit box until the community could meet and discuss what they wished done with their images, and with the Town Meeting. Information from the Ad Hoc Committee for Our Right to Privacy Robin Purdy



WHO IS ROSE BIRD & WHAT IS SHE TRYING TO PROVE?

In the many months in preparing for election primaries and the infamous Proposition 13, the California Supreme Court made a decision about the relationship between rape and GBI (Great Bodily Injury). GBI is valid to cases where a crime such as rape, burglary, or robbery is enhanced by bodily injury to the victim. If the assailant is convicted of GBI his prison sentence is automatically increased. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court voted 5-2 not to include emotional distress and mental abuse as pertaining to GBI, in rape cases. The precedent setting case was that of the People vs. Daniel Caudillo. Caudillo was accused of raping a woman... "Over a two hour period, (the defendant) forcibly copulated the victim's vagina, mouth, and anus," wrote one justice, "The victim was pushed, shoved, cut twice by a knife, raped, sodomized, and abused to the point of vomiting, diarrhea and hysteria. Her neck wounds were respectively three inches long and one and a half inches long."

Originally Caudillo was found guilty of forcible rape, sodomy, oral copulation, first degree robbery and burglary, and kidnapping; and GBI. Caudillo appealed his sentence. The new verdict, at best was an attempt by the Supreme Court to explain rape as a crime not serious enough for the GBI clause. They said, "There can be no quarrel with the fact that the defendant engaged in a sexual attack upon the victim of such outrageous shocking and despicable nature that the victim suffered extreme humiliation and distress. We agree that rape or other sexually abusive conduct constitutes a serious crime... but we are aware of no principles of statutory interpretation that would permit the legislative language 'great bodily injury' to be construed as

including a rape victim's psychological and emotional trauma." The Supreme Court made an important decision pertinent to all women and of course to the rapists... Caudillo has served 'good time' in prison for the last three years and with this precedent setting decision by the courts, he may be a free man as early as May of 1979.

Until recent years, we as concerned women could respond to such a decision with valid anger against male dominated courts and the obvious lack of sensitivity and understanding that men so often show towards women and the question of rape. Ironically, Rose Bird, Jerry Brown's appointee to the Supreme Court, without argument, upheld the decision. She said, "I find I am compelled to sign the opinion of the majority, since the legislative history... indicates that the Legislature intended that rape per se could not be deemed 'Great Bodily Injury.'" This court must give full weight to that intent, whatever our personal views concerning this most serious offense."

It is difficult to take Bird's decision lightly. How can a woman say that "personal repugnance toward these crimes cannot be legitimate basis for rewriting the statute as it was adopted by the legislative body and at the same time say that "the rape was despicable and outrageous." Bird takes pride in the fact that she is the first woman appointed to the Supreme Court, that she is young and that she is a 'maverick' amongst a traditionally stuffy cast. To her credit she has sold the court's limousine, moved meetings of the state Judicial Court away from resort settings and has assigned municipal and superior court judges to the Supreme Court. All and all the impressiveness of her actions can hardly justify the stance she took concerning the recent rape decision.

Bird in a recent interview with the L.A. Times stated, "I think there's a good deal of misunderstanding about

the proper role of the courts. I think it's an important time for the courts to see themselves as an organic whole instead of segmented parts." Maybe Bird can make this statement about the roles of the courts because no one has ever told her that one woman is raped every two minutes in the United States, and that eight women a day are raped in Sacramento City and County. That women of all ages are raped and that 77% of all rapes are planned. Judging from Bird's decision the question of who understands or misunderstands the purpose of the court should be asked to Bird, not to the citizens. The most curious part of Bird's statement is the court should act as an organic whole--- again someone should tell Bird that the mind is as much a part of the body as is the vagina. Rape is an assault on the body as well as on the mind; women are organic wholes, not segmented parts.

Bird of course responded to upholding the rape decision by asking the legislature to enact a law which would reverse the Caudillo case. On first glance this might relieve the minds of feminists who still believe that women in politics are categorically good. However, one has to realize that Bird did not support the Gualco Bill. Under this bill a burglar or robber would be given an additional three years in prison, if he paused during the crime to rape his victim. The bill died without a vote.

Bird's future as a Supreme Court Judge will be decided in the November election, and it looks dim. She does not have a strong judicial performance, she has authored only a few decisions and she has managed not to take a stance about the extradition of Dennis Banks, the former American Indian Movement leader.

If Bird has lost her appeal to the feminist audience it is her own fault-- did she actually believe that her voting record would go unnoticed because of the confusion and press coverage of Proposition 13, or does she actually believe that rape does not include great bodily injury? Maybe she could explain her decision to the millions of rape victims in our nation, or more appropriately stand by the prison doors and shake the hands of the rapists as they once again become "FREE MEN!"

Lynn Patten

ACLU Asks for Disclosure Exemptions on 6

The American Civil Liberties Union has asked the San Francisco Court of Appeal to permit those who donate money for the defeat of Proposition 6 on the November ballot to use assumed names in making cash contributions over \$50.00.

Under the requirement of the Political Reform Act, those who donate over \$50.00 to any campaign must disclose their name, address and place of employment. This information is then produced on lists and made available to the public by the Fair Political Practices Commission.

The brief, filed by three attorneys of the ACLU, claims that potential contributors against the Briggs Initiative feared "substantial harassment and reprisal" if their names

were disclosed in accordance with the law.

The attorneys asked the court to rule that the Fair Political Practices Commission exempt the registered political committees working to defeat Prop. 6 from the law.

The brief was filed on behalf of schoolteacher Jane Doe, the Bay Area Committee Against the Briggs Initiative No on 6, East Bay Area Coalition Against the Briggs Initiative/No on 6 and Paul F. Newton, a taxpayer.

The brief states that Jane Doe wishes to contribute more than \$50.00 to a committee advocating the defeat of Prop. 6. However, Doe "reasonably believes that public disclosure of any contribution she may make of

fifty dollars or more...will substantially impair her employment opportunities in the event that Prop. 6 is enacted by the vote of the electorate."

The two committees joined the action because they found that many are contributing less than \$50 because they fear "substantial harassment and reprisal."

Both groups also allege that this "substantially diminishes the aggregate total of contributions likely to be given, diminishes their opportunity for free expression and impairs their opportunity to protect the associational privacy of their contributors."

Yvonne Baginski
EDITORS NOTE: The San Francisco Court of Appeals has denied the writ and a brief was filed on August 22 before the State Supreme Court.

Alternatives— Stress Reduction

Womyn's needs have been neglected--- need I say more--- but one of the biggest complaints womyn have is fatigue. Some of this can be attributed to our menstruation cycle, and/or to birth control as well as to the daily stress of our environment.

Although our society does not recognize womyn's stress factors as being as significant as men's, we do have indeed, a much higher index of stress. Believe it or not there is a food that helps significantly in coping with stress and fatigue.

The food- its called Brewer's Yeast(not baker's). Now some of you might have given this a try in times past and said it was awful---but if you will try the following recipe you might be surprised at how good it is. For people who have been on a sugar and white flour diet the taste will seem more off then for those who have been eating more raw foods. The reason being that sugar numbs the taste buds in your mouth and so it will take a little time to get used to the nutty flavor in yeast.

ENERGY POWER DRINK

2 cups skimmed milk

1 tap. sfflower oil

3/4-1 tsp. fructose sugar(2 packets)

1 tsp. vanilla

BLEND: Add:

4 tab. Brewer's Yeast(start with 1/4 tsp. and gradually increase to 1 tab.)

4 tab. lecithin

whip and leave in refrigerator overnight

whip in AM.

Brewer's Yeast should be grown on black strap molasses. There are other yeasts available grown on wood pulp or petroleum, so be sure to check the label--black strap variety should be used. Also get it is the flake form, this is usually more palatable. Yeast comes in tablets also, but usually it takes 20 or so to equal a tablespoon. If you can find it where five tablets equals a tablespoon, you may prefer to take it that way.

One problem in taking yeast with our American diet is sugar. Yeast taken in conjunction with sugar causes flatulation or gas. Start taking Brewer's Yeast in small quantities, perferbly 1/4-1/2 teaspoon and gradually increase this to a full tablespoon once or twice a day---

depending on stress. Along with it, it would be advisable to take either HCL (Hydrocholich Acid) or Comfrey/Pepsin tablets found in any health stores.

Remember to cut down on white sugar, flour, rice as these also do not have nutrients, but help deplete the the body of vitamin B and minerals.

Brewer's Yeast is rich in the complete B vitamin family and some yeast's even include B12. Also found in yeast are traces of Chromium, which helps to normalize blood sugar levels---for all you hypoglycemics out there--- also selenium---selenium has been found to be important in maintaining cellular health and also enhances the beneficial effects of Vit. E. It also has nucleic acids, RNA and DNA for the cell and tissue regeneration for a healthier and younger looking skin.

FACIAL MASK

take about a tab. of Brewer's Yeast in a cup---add milk just to make moist add vit. E (afew drops)

mix and place on face like a mud pack

leave for 20 minutes

rinse with water

Due to the increased knowledge of food allergies it has been found that some people might have a reaction to this type of yeast---if you feel that you might, check with your doctor. For best results take the yeast consistently for about 10 days to 2 weeks, increasing the amount. Then take about three times a week or every fourth day.

Good health and have fun

Jan Linker

Jan Linker has been interested in nutrition for about 13 years. She has a BA degree in Psychology and a major in Home Econmics from Chico State. Jan is presently working on her MA degree at Sacramento State. Jan says that "she got sick and tired of being sick", so she started to look for alternative ways to better health, for herself and her four children. She has realized that the body and mind function together and is pursuing studies in the fields of psychology and nutrition. You will be able to see and hear Jan, Sept. 26, on Channel 13, on Morning Scene, at 8:30 AM.

'Not Liable for Damages'

In June a Los Angeles judge found nine doctors "not liable for damages" in the forced sterilization of 10 chicana women. The women charged that the federal government and the Univiersity of Southern California-Los Angeles Medical Center had sterilized them against their will. Three of them women did not sign a consent form and the remaining seven were not aware of the consequences of a tubal ligation. They also charged that they were not informed in Spanish as to the effects of the surgery.

Testimony given at the trial indicated that the women had been sterilized without informed consent. A handwriting expert testified that the signature of one woman was "markedly different" on the consent form, than her signature on other forms. The expert suggested this was due to her lying down, being in intense pain, and/or being heavily medicated. A nurse at the hospital testified she spoke enough Spanish to get by, but did not explain the sterilization to these women in Spanish.

The class action suit demanded unspecified damages awarded to all women who have undergone sterilization at the med-center without their consent and demanded that the federal government provide sufficient guidelines to prevent unwanted sterilizations.

The women won judgements against the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and the State Department of Health, forcing them to institute new guidelines dictating that a consent form must be written in the patients native language, it must be written at a sixth grade level, and special counseling must be provided in the patients native language.

Damages were not awarded because the judge felt the sterilizations occurred because of a "misunderstanding" not because of racist hospital policies.

Robin Purdy

MEDI-CAL ABORTION UPDATE

A Coalition of feminist attorneys, women's groups, welfare groups and health care providers filed suit against the State of California arguing that restrictions on abortion imposed in the 1978-79 state budget violate the U.S. and Calif. Constitutions and the Federal Social Security Act.

A temporary restraining order was granted in August which ordered the State Department of Health to continue paying for all abortions under the MediCal Program until Aug. 30 when a hearing for a preliminary injunction should be granted. A

preliminary injunction would continue the restraining order until a final decision is made on the suit.

Joan Graff, an attorney for Equal Rights Advocates in San Francisco, is seeking a permanent injunction against the restrictions imposed by the budget. "Each day of unavailable abortion causes irreparable damage to countless women who either try to perform the abortion themselves, or bear unwanted children, while each day the abortions continually cause the state no harm.

The California State budget for 1978-79 limits Medi-Cal abortions

to cases where the mother's life is in danger or the mother would suffer "severe and long lasting physical health damage", the pregnancy is ectopic(implanted outside the womb), or the child would be born with a severe genetic or congenital abnormality. Abortion would also be possible if pregnancy resulted from incest, statutory rape (if the woman is under sixteen and informs her parents) and forcible rape, if the woman reports the rape to law enforcement officials.

Robin Purdy

Gay Rights

A forum for the first large-scale exchange of litigation strategies in the area of gay rights has been announced by the Gay Law Students Association at Hastings College of the Law. On Sept. 23 and 24, the Hastings Gay Law Students Association and the American Bar Association Law Students Division will co-sponsor the Gay Rights Under the Law Symposium. The event will consist of an intensive series of lectures and panel discussions conducted by the nation's leading authorities on gay rights (see calendar page.)

The objective of the event will be to present and explain the rights of gay people under present law, and to discuss tactics and techniques which can be used to protect and further those rights. The entire symposium will be videotaped and made available for future use.

The Gay Rights Under the Law Symposium will be held at Hastings College of the Law, 198 McAllister, San Fran., Ca., 94102. Students will be admitted free. There will be a \$15.00 tax-deductible registration fee for others. Donations to help defray the cost of the symposium may be directed to Hastings College of the Law, Attn.: Gay Law Students Association.

Defense for Peten

A Defense Committee has been formed for Cassandra Peten in effort to raise the 10,000 dollars needed for her case. Peten has been charged with attempted murder and the possession and use of a fire arm.

Peten in response to continual emotional and physical abuse, shot and injured her husband, after he took a large sum of money from her. Because of Peten's reaction to an intolerable situation, she now faces seven to ten years in prison. Peten's husband faces no charges for the previous years of physical abuse... If you can help clear Cassandra Peten, please make checks and money orders payable to: Cassandra Peten Defense Committee 1600 Woolsey St. Berkeley, Ca. 94740
DEFEND THE RIGHT OF WOMEN TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM PHYSICAL ABUSE.



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**CAMPING
WOMEN**

**2720 ARMSTRONG
SACRAMENTO, CA.
95825 (916) 488-1297**

Gay Bob

The American toy industry is witnessing a new low- dolls that did everything which is humanly possible, including war games, have been pre-empted by sexuality. Yes--- the new doll, GAY BOB.

Gay Bob is the creation of an advertising executive from New York, Harvey Rosenberg. Rosenberg spent ten thousand dollars on his creation and markets it largely through mail order. The doll itself comes with a flannel cowboy shirt, denim jeans and cowboy boots, and of course, wears one earring? By the way, Bob comes complete with a closet.

Rosenberg says, "Men have to liberate themselves from traditional sex roles, ...everyone from business executives to construction workers need to come out of the closet."

Whatever the reason for this invention the doll seems to be selling... Rosenberg attributes this to the fact that people are fascinated by homosexuality... and being pleased with Gay Bob, Rosenberg has developed a whole plastic entourage of sexual stereotypes--- Straight Steve and Liberated Libby. WHAT NEXT

Firebombs

Seven family planning clinics across the country have been firebombed and many more have been vandalized or subjected to harassment within the last year, according to a report by the National Abortion Rights Action League.

On February 15, 1978 a man in a delivery uniform threw gasoline in a technicians face, temporarily blinding her, then soaked the room and ignited it, totally destroying the Women's Clinic in Cleveland, Oh.

On February 23, 1977 the Planned Parenthood administrative offices in St. Paul, MN were broken into and soaked with flammable liquids and burned. \$5,000 worth of windows have been broken, bullets have been fired into the building, and a faulty but professionally-constructed bomb was found in front of a window since the fire.

On August 18, 1977 a fire set by at least four bottles of gasoline caused \$35,000 worth of damage to Ladies Clinic of Omaha, NB. Several groups received letters claiming credit and clinic personnel traced the arsonist to a gas station, but police closed the case without prosecution.

In November 1977 a man entered Planned Parenthood of Cincinnati, OH before it opened and set a fire in a crib, which spread to a limited area before it was controlled.

On May 1 a fire destroyed the Vermont Women's Health Center.

On January 8, 1978 an arsonist set ten paper fires causing \$200,000 in damage at the Northwest Women's Center in Columbus, OH.

On March 1, 1978 the Akron Women's Clinic in Akron, OH was subject to a fire set in the bathroom while staff and patients were still in a back room.

SB1437

Senate Bill 1437 passed the Senate this year with little debate. Its counterpart HR6869 is now in the House Judiciary Committee. It is still in the mark-up stage of the sub-committee on Criminal Justice.

This bill is a total rewrite of the criminal code. It affects all revolutionary, radical and liberal groups and provides tight government controls on public dissent.

HR6869 affects women in the following ways;

*A man-made obscenity clause would make distribution of abortion information through the mail punishable as passing "obscene material."

*The Sexual assault section restores laws making it legal for a husband to rape his wife.

*A demonstration can be defined as a "riot" if there are more than 10 people and voices are too loud.

*Boycott becomes the crime of "extortion and blackmail". Under this section, N.O.W. would be guilty of blackmail and extortion for organizing the boycott of the states that have not ratified the ERA. All boycotters would face a 10 year prison sentence.

*A "criminal conspiracy" charge could be levied on anyone attending a demonstration at which a crime is committed.

*If one person raises their fist in a public demonstration of more than 10 people, the whole group would be guilty of a riot, fined and sentenced to five years in jail.

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456-5929

Put down your weapons women and turn in your Cat.

Monday, August 21, at 8:25am at the Sacramento Metropolitan Airport, Ebet Priest was arrested for the felony offense of carrying a Mystical Cat keychain under penal code 12020. Although her keychain was confiscated, she was not booked and the case was turned over to the District Attorney who will decide if she is to be prosecuted. A property hearing was requested by the "felon" with the hope of retrieving her keychain. It will be the purpose of the hearing to determine if the keychain was purchased and owned to be used as a weapon.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has issued a special bulletin warning deputies to "take necessary precautions due to their (mystical cat keychain) obvious potential as dangerous weapons". The report states that the "Mystical Cat" is sold and advertised as a keychain, but, irregardless, should be considered illegal under section 12020 and dangerous.

In other words, Peter Pitchess (Sheriff, Los Angeles), don't get confused by the facts, disarm those dangerous women. Hey, ain't it great to know that women are being considered dangerous, able to defend themselves through behavior and attitudes. It is one thing to know how to inflict bodily harm, another to actually be able to follow through with such action. Traditionally women have been taught, and generally believed, that we are not capable....But now... times and attitudes must be changing on all sides.

It is important to note that a key, for example, used as a weapon to poke out the eye of an attacking rapist could be just as effective at the "Mystical Cat" so feared by law enforcement officials. Does this mean that the next "dangerous weapon to be outlawed for women will be keys? How about boots, pencils, good heavy books with sharp edges? Bring on the paper gowns and slippers...Take away the shoelaces...Got to control those dangerous women who insist on the right to protect themselves.

Rumor has it that women throughout the state of California have been stopped, harassed and had their keychains confiscated under such orders as those of Peter J. Pitchess. It is not known, as of this writing, if any women have been arrested and convicted under this felony code. Ebet Priest does not expect to be prosecuted for her "crime" but is concerned that this issue needs to be clearly defined under the law. It is definitely not clear. The only clarity is that the carrying of the "Mystical Cat" keychain is being "stuffed" under an existing penal code which does not clearly define it as a weapon. Perhaps the strategy is to arrest a few women, harass them and they will put down those damn things and be good. This also applies to anyone selling, manufacturing or distributing these trauma producing weapons. Oh hell, who knows what all the fuss is about. It is hard to even imagine Staraska objecting to the "Mystical Cat", for after all, a woman could

use it to pick her nose with in order to disgust and turn off those sex hungry rapists.

Enough cynicism. The point is that women cannot afford to "put down their cats" and be good. We have the right to clarity of the law but we must ask, demand if necessary, for it to be clarified. If you have, or you know of anyone who has been arrested or harassed for the possession of such a keychain, please have them contact Ebet Priest through the Sacramento Women's Center or through 381-3488. In order to determine if legal action can or should be taken at this time it is necessary to know what is happening in other counties throughout the state. The code must be dealt with on a county to county basis and we need to start somewhere. Support you local felon...send cards and letters, and make those phone calls now.

Ebet Priest



photo by Nancy Holland

Self Defense Classes

- Sac. City College, Self Defense for Women Only, Mary Bennett, \$13.00.
C.S.U.S., check Physical Education Department listings.
Sacramento Y.W.C.A., 17 & L St., 442-4741, \$26.00.
Sacramento Y.W.C.A.'s Park and Recreation, 3127 Eastern Ave., 483-6426, \$23.00.
Sacramento Park & Recreation/Fulton-El Camino, 2201 Bell St. 927-3802 \$12.00.
Sacramento Park & Recreation/Rancho Cordova, 2197 Chase Dr., 362-1841.
Sacramento Park & Recreation/ Southgate, 7460 Persimmon Ave. 428-1171.
Sacramento Park & Recreation/ Sunrise, 7801 Auburn, 725-1585, \$12.00.
Sheriff's Department, Country Club Plaza, 441-3441.
Sacramento Y.M.C.A., 2021 W St., 452-5451, \$26.00.
Sacramento City Unified Schools, Hiram Johnson Adult Education, 6418 14th Ave. & 65th St., 454-8308, \$5.00.
Sacramento City Unified Schools, Eastern Adult Center, 1150 Eastern Ave., 484-2171, \$5.00
Elk Grove Unified Schools 8820 Elk Grove Blvd., 685-2727. \$2.50.
Luther Burbank High School, 3500 Florin Rd., 454-8421. No Fee.
Sacramento City College, Self- Defense, Karate, R. Lanza, Instructor.

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FRIENDS

On September 16, the Friends Committee on legislation is celebrating its 25th Anniversary with an OLD TIME SOCIAL. The Celebration will be from 4:00 to 8:00 at the Unitarian Church, 2545 Sierra Blvd. in Sacramento. The Anniversary will include a spaghetti feed, home made ice cream sundies, fiddling and square dancing, and a play entitled "My Fair Law Makers". People are encouraged to come in costume. A special treat will be a Soap Box where anyone can speak on any subject for 3 minutes for \$1.00 donation.

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 1-4

Adventures of the mind--Camping Women is sponsoring a camping program at Emigrant Gap where techniques for total physical and mental relaxation will be taught. Emily Mast will lead the trip. The cost is \$60.00 to members and \$75.00 to all others.

Point Reyes Backpacking Experience will be led by Joan McCarthy. This Camping Women trip will help women learn or perfect skills in camping and backpacking while spending three days exploring the national seashore at Pt. Reyes. Cost to members is \$60.00, all others \$75.00.

SEPTEMBER 2

A.B.D.C. Statewide Rally against Proposition 13 and the Bakke decision will be held in East Los Angeles. Carpools are available, call 451-7011, 446-7176, or 443-7059 for information.

SEPTEMBER 6

"Stress Reduction", a workshop led by Carlagaye Olson will be sponsored by the Sacramento Women's Center and Mother's Emergency Stress Service. It will be held at MESS, 2115 J St. at 7:00.

SEPTEMBER 8,9,10

West Coast Women Martial Artist's Training Weekend will be held at Lake Vera in Nevada City, Ca. The weekend will be an intensive workout for women martial artists with workshops for exchange of techniques, ideas and experiences open to practitioners of judo, jiu-jitsu, aikido and hard and soft styles of karate. The cost is \$30.00 per woman.

SEPTEMBER 9,10

Workers Conference Against the Briggs Initiative/Proposition 6, a conference for gay, straight, union and non-union workers to raise the Briggs issue on the job or in unions and form

networks. Co-sponsored by gay and labor groups from San Francisco and Los Angeles, the conference will be held in San Francisco. For exact location and more information, call (415) 552-5245 or write 378 Pennsylvania St., S.F. 94107.

SEPTEMBER 16

"Get Going" a workshop by Mary Duel will be sponsored by the Sacramento Women's Center and Mother's Emergency Stress Service. The workshop will deal with Re-entry and resume/vita and will be held at the Sacramento Women's Center, 1230 H St at 10:00.

SEPTEMBER 18

"Having Fun While Sober" a workshop by Sharon Peterson will be sponsored by the Sacramento Women's Center and Mother's Emergency Stress Service. This will be a dance workshop so wear something comfortable. It will be held at MESS, 2115 J St. at 7:00.

SEPTEMBER 20

"Women For Sobriety" a group for women with current drug or alcohol problems will meet at 7:00 at MESS, 2115 J St. This group is co-sponsored by the Sacramento Women's Center and Mother's Emergency Stress Service.

SEPTEMBER 23

The Feminist Spirituality Center is sponsoring a music and poetry "get together" at 8pm at Earharts, 1905 16th St. The evening is a celebration of the Fall Equinox. Gayiel von Geldern, Joyce Odam, Betty Starr and Donna Bledsoe will share their poetry and special music will enliven the evening. A raffle will be held with jewelry by Beth Etgen as the prize. A donation of \$2.50 is requested.

"Enjoy Being in Your Body" a massage workshop by Linda Keller will be held at the Sacramento Women's Center from 10-4. Wear a bathing suit or loose clothing and bring a lunch, soft mat & towel. A \$5.00 donation is requested. Pre-register by calling Roxanne at the Women's Center, 442-4657.

SEPTEMBER 23 & 24

Gay Rights Under the Law Symposium will be sponsored by Gay Law Students Association of Hastings College of Law and the American Bar Association.

The symposium includes Employment Discrimination, Criminal Law, Rights of Gay Prisoners, Child Custody, Lobbying, and Legislative Alternatives. For more information, write Gay Law Students Association, 198 McAllister St., SF, 94102, or call (415) 557-1950.

SEPTEMBER 28

Winners of "After Hours Art" competition for media artists, sponsored by Sacramento Women in Advertising, the Open Ring Gallery and Niello Porsche Audi, will be shown from 6-8:30 at the Niello Porsche/Audi showrooms. A 2 week display will follow this opening night reception.

SEPTEMBER 29

"Looking at Drugs and Alcohol within Our Lifestyle" a problem solving groups for lesbians will be co-sponsored by the Sacramento Women's Center and Mother's Emergency Stress Service. The group will be held at the Sacramento Women's Center 1230 H St. at 7:00.

SEPTEMBER 30

"Magic, Myth and Meditation" workshop sponsored by the Feminist Spirituality Center will be held from 9am to 5pm at the El Dorado Room of the Student Union at CSUS. Workshop leaders, including Ebony Mountainwater, Nancy Black, and Ann Forfreedom will lead exercises and highlight the connections between feminism and women's heritage in mythology. A donation of \$10.00 for members and \$12.00 for non-members is requested. Proceeds will go to the Feminist Spirituality Center, a non-profit organization devoted to reshaping and nurturing the spiritual energies of people of a variety of beliefs.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Learning Tree Opens

For those of you who are not aware summer is almost over. The Learning Tree will open Sept. 5. Their tentative schedule will be from 9 to 3, with childcare beginning at 3 and going 'til 6.

They plan to have a great deal of variety in their curriculum. The children will be taught to budget their time, learn various forms of communication, and will have access to a music program. Reading, writing and math will be areas of academic focus. The school now has information on easy to make math games and other building skills.

The Learning Tree is now a member of the Pacific Region Assoc. of Alternative Schools. The association is centered in S.F. and focuses on the needs of private alternative schools. There will be a West Coast Conference Oct. 22, which some parents might be interested in attending.

For information call

Bara 452-1180

Judy 442-1671

Babs 362-2225

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Interested in an all women's construction company? Do you have any skills---building, plumbing, electricity? There is a woman in town looking for skilled, non-tradition oriented women to start a firm to build and remodel houses. For more information or if you are interested--- Call Cherie 456-1195.

CHEER

The Center for Homosexual Education, Evaluation and Research (CHEER) is conducting a federally-funded project to document cases of possible discrimination against homosexual men and women or people who depart from feminine and masculine stereotypes.

The general purpose of this project is to study issues that arise in conflicts that homosexual men and women have in public or private institutions. A conflict is defined as a situation in which one party was perceived by another party as threatening to take action against them. Institutional settings for conflicts include the following: education, law enforcement, health services, licensing, public accommodation and housing, family, social rehabilitation, immigration, and naturalization, military, media and culture, religious institutions, voluntary organizations, financial institutions, business, industry, and professional services.

The interview schedule includes:

(1) questions about the conflict incidents, (2) questions about the perceived femininity and masculinity of the parties, and (3) questions about the sexual orientation of the parties. All interviews and records are strictly confidential.

Answers to questions about femininity and masculinity will be used to study the relationship between social sex-role stereotyping and the abridgment of civil liberties. The interview will also examine issues of sexual orientation to determine the relationship between violations of civil liberties and knowledge or assumption of the homosexual orientation.

The study will strengthen the protection of the civil liberties of men and women who belong to social sex-role or sexual orientation minorities. Results will be published in the form of articles and a book.

If you or anyone you know feels that they have experienced discrimination and are 21 years of age, please contact the project staff.

John P. De Cecco, Director

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Women on the Move

With the help of many people, S.F. Women's Centers is attempting to buy a building that would house a performance space, women's organization, a library, childcare facilities, coffee house, crisis counseling center, printing press, health center, art gallery, etc.

The building will be a vital resource for all of us.

S.F. Women's Center is sponsoring a "Mile-a-thon" in October as a fundraising event. Participants in the "Mile-a-thon" will be able to split their earnings, 50% going to the Women's Building and 50% going to any nonprofit women's organization of their choice.

Walkers, people in wheelchairs, and joggers: we want and need your support. Proceeds will go to the growth of our entire women's community.

To register, to join us on the move, call Eileen at the Rape Crisis Center 447-3223 or come down to 1230 H St. Sponsor sheets are available now. Pick up your sheet and start signing up sponsors who will pledge a specific sum of money for each mile traveled along the fifteen mile route through Golden Gate Park.

Who is a sponsor? A friend, a family member, a merchant, or neighbor. Earn as much as \$3000 for your favorite organization. The walk begins 8:30, Sat. Oct. 14, in Golden Gate Park at the Music Concourse.

Women on the Move "mile-a-thon" will only work through the combined effort of all of us.

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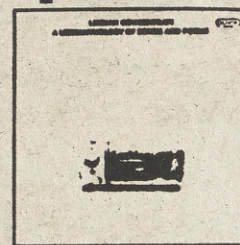
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What does Prop. 6 Really Mean?

In Order To Pass Prop. 6, Its Supporters Are Relying On Two Things:

- 1 that voters will not be informed of the actual content of the initiative and
- 2 that Californians can be scared into voting for the initiative on the basis of lies and distortions.

The following are statements made about homosexuality:

WHO ARE HOMOSEXUALS:

"The task force has found that homosexual men and women are represented in all age groups, socioeconomic classes, racial and ethnic groups, educational levels and employment categories. They are an integral part of our society." Oregon Task Force on Sexual Preference.

"The common myth that homosexual males are effeminate and identifiable and that homosexual females are swaggering, 'butch' types is not borne out by the facts. About 15 percent of females with extensive homosexual histories are identifiable." Dr. Wardell B. Pomeroy, psychologist.

WILL HOMOSEXUAL TEACHERS ALTER THE SEXUAL PREFERENCE OF THEIR STUDENTS?

"There is no evidence that homosexual teachers might affect sexual orientation of their students." Dr. John Spiegel, President, the American Psychiatric Association.

"I can't imagine teachers having any influence on whether students become homosexual or heterosexual. Anita Bryant's ideas about homosexual teachers recruiting young boys is nonsense. It goes against all the facts we have." Dr. Wardell B. Pomeroy, psychologist.

IS HOMOSEXUALITY A MENTAL ILLNESS?

"Homosexuality is nothing to be ashamed of; no vice, no degradation, it can not be classified as illness." Sigmund Freud

"One of the revelations to me in recent investigations I have been doing with...homosexuals has been how much they enjoy their lives-how happy many of them are and how completely fulfilled they feel." Dr. Judd Marmor, psychoanalyst, UCLA.

WHAT DOES PROP. 6 REALLY MEAN?...

Proposition 6 (the Briggs Initiative) calls for the investigation and firing of public school employees who in any way indicate an open mind on the subject of homosexuality. If passed, it will create an atmosphere of spying and slander in our communities. Because the wording of the initiative is so vague, an employee could be fired or lose his or her reputation for reasons that may or may not have anything to do with personal sexual preference. In addition to homosexuals, heterosexuals of a minority race, religion or political opinion will be easy and frequent targets. And Prop. 6 opens the doors for

similar legislation in almost all areas of employment.

The sponsors of this bill are trying to manipulate our valid concerns about human relationships-but not because they care about harmony and stability of these relationships. Instead, they seek to give a single-minded group legal control over the lives of the rest of us.

The Education Code of this state already contains laws that demand the dismissal of school personnel on grounds of "immoral or unprofessional conduct" and "mental condition unfitting him[or her] to associate with children" (Section 44940).

Prop. 6 falsely implies that the family unit cannot survive unless the government censors all information on other forms of domestic and emotional life.

The family is defined in this bill as the "conjugal [based on marriage] family unit." This proposition would set a precedent under which families with one parent, people who are divorced, single living unmarried with a person of the opposite sex, even priests and nuns, could be subject to legal restrictions in employment, housing and other areas.

The initiative invites massive censorship of speech and press, and broad government interference into the lives of youth and adults. Potentially, the government could even attempt to regulate the parent-child relationship.

Under Prop. 6 charges can be filed by anyone in the community regardless of motive. Once charges are filed at least one hearing must be held. Regardless of the validity of the "charges" time and tax money will be tied up in such hearings, and the reputation of the charged employee will be damaged.

Some sections of the proposition overrule any previous regulations, such as existing state law or a union contract, regarding the firing of an employee.

It is quite likely that beyond the two hearings leading to an employee's dismissal, the school board will repeatedly have to defend its actions in higher courts.

In summary, Proposition 6 is an attempt to deprive school employees, and possibly others, of their rights of free speech and privacy. One's opinions, home life, friendships, appearance, interests, and tastes will be open to constant scrutiny. Employees must condemn or silence discussions of homosexuality in their presence, on or off school grounds, regardless of whether students are involved, or be open to charges.

This bill sets a dangerous precedent for similar legislation in other areas of employment. It also opens the door for wide-ranging censorship of religious, political and social beliefs.

School districts are presently struggling to halt the downward slide of reading and writing scores,

and to deal with reduced operating budgets. Passage of Prop. 6 will burden districts to a point where they cannot function. Precious time and tax money will be wasted on unnecessary hearings and court appeals.

REMEMBER:

The goal of education is, at least in part, to prepare the students to understand and respond to the outside world. Homosexuals make up approximately 10% of the population of the country. They can be found in all races, economic classes, jobs, and religious and social groups. It is almost certain that students at some time in their lives will meet a homosexual and or the child, parent, brother, sister, or friend of a homosexual. If they are to respond with anything but fear and hatred, they should not be denied the opportunity to discuss homosexuality. And that, where appropriate, should include the schools.

The prejudices and distortions being used to pass Prop. 6 have been used, at one time or another, against numerous groups. They have been used against ethnic groups such as Blacks, the Irish, and the Japanese. They have been used against Catholics, and Jews. They have been used against teaching evolution and giving women the right to vote. They will be used again and again unless we repeatedly show that we will not be blinded by them. One place to start is by DEFEATING PROP. 6.

REMEMBER PROTECT YOURSELVES WITH A NO VOTE ON 6 IN NOVEMBER.

Information provided by East Bay Area Coalition Against Briggs Initiative 2000 Center St. Suite 1221 Berkeley, Ca. 94704



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Poems by Patricia



Mama

Some times
As I pass Canada Road
And see again
The beautiful green pastures
I recall being there
With you
How we'd steal a few moments
To be together
To walk, and talk
And hold each other
To lay in the softness
And after the loving
How we'd laugh
Imagining a camera
In the tree overhead
Recording your naked ass
For posterity
or the world at large
And we'd leave our lovenest
Reluctantly
To return to our separate worlds.

And I recall again
Our babies
They'd be five and eleven now
Had we allowed that to be
I wonder where they are now
And if they know how I loved them
Yet allowed them to be taken from my body
Before they had the chance to be
And the sadness I feel
When now I realize
the choice I made
I haven't thought of them for years
I never named them
they were you
and me
Created in love
Died in fear
And buried in efficient shame
Branded an inconvenience
Today I love them
As once I loved you
And I hear their child's laughter
Ringing in the air
And they call me
Mama.

One died in Mexico
In a little house
Somewhere outside Juarez
Nobody had a name there
Only crisp hundred dollar bills
Changed hands
The doctors laughed
As they worked
Beyond that white sheet
And my drug-numbed senses
Perhaps they were already thinking
Of spending your \$500

You were there
Sitting nervously
Like any new father
In the waiting room
With all the other mothers-to-be not
Waiting
With their excess baggage
When we were all processed

Patricia Joy Bearg calls herself a photographer/poet for want of a better label. She began her active search for herself three years ago when she entered her 40's crisis. Since that time her life has changed dramatically- she left her marriage, quit her job as a manager at a successful computer company, and has focused her attention and awareness on her personal growth. While searching for a new career, she discovered latent abilities in three areas- photography, writing, and calligraphy. She does each independently, and combines the three skills in the production of her photo-poems.

Patricia is known in Los Gatos, Scotts Valley, Mendocino, and Carmel. She is the featured artist for the month of August at the Craftsman Gallery in Carmel.

We again packed into the car outside
And were quietly delivered back
To an obscure side street
And our rented cars
To return to El Paso
Over the bridge
Over the Rio Grande
Smiling at the border guards
Just tourists for the day
No-one would ever know
Certainly not the baby
The sins of your parents
Visited upon you.

The other died in San Diego
In a sterile hospital
The world had changed
In that six years
Now civilized
One could legally remove unwanted objects
Up to a certain age
Only our immature passions remained
Still alive after all those years
And still beyond control
Or thought of possible consequence
And again the inevitability
Of what had to be done
No way to avoid it
Delegate it
Put it off
This time I handled it alone
With your money
Less of it this time
Being legal now



A volcano
Simmering
Beneath the surface
Hiding its power
Beneath the crust
Covered with foliage
A deceitful cover
The illusion of softness
In reality
Seething
Bubbling
Then creeping up
Cracking the surface
Spilling angrily
Spewing hot
Fire
Red
Into the air
Cascading down
To burn the shell
The mountain crumbles
Pouring hot
Destroying all
In its path
Destroying
Its self.

I flew down for the tests
Another new name
I used Morris, I believe
The date was set up
Just two weeks to wait
That was five years ago last week
Oh I handled it well
So efficiently
Down and back in one day
On PSA
A taxi to and from the hospital
On the table at three pm
Serving dinner at home at eight
To an unknowing family
Except for me
I knew what I had done
I knew I had killed that day
But so efficiently
So like me then
To be so neat
So well organized
Handling affairs with aplomb
And proper dispatch.

Now
With a new awareness
Conscious at last
I pray to my God
Asking forgiveness

And I hear their child's laughter
Ringing in the air
And they call me
Mama.

Loving Myself

Some times
Loving myself
Is joyous
And some times
It's lonely
And when it's over
I cry
From the aloneness
The wanting to be with you
To share this with you
This part of my being
that explodes
Deep inside my body
And scatters my joys
With my silent screams
And I cry
In my desire
To give joy to you
And I cry
For your inability
To accept this from me
For the loss you have
But mainly
I cry
For me.

ERA ERA ERA ERA ERA

House Passes Extension

In August the House of Representatives approved the 39 month ratification extension of the Equal Rights Amendment and defeated an amendment to let states that have already ratified the ERA rescind ratification.

The bill will now go before the Senate where opponents have threatened a filibuster. ERA supporters in Salt Lake City, Utah have announced a nationwide fast to coincide with the filibuster. They are calling on women in the west to participate in and support the hunger strike and let the filibustering Senators know about the fast.

In Sacramento the local NOW chapter and the Sacramento Women's Center will serve as contact points for those interested in participating in or following the fasters progress.

Extension Question

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

Are these words familiar? They are from the Equal Rights Amendment.

Women are working extremely hard to have the Constitution amended to assure that the laws of this country are not ignored or repealed because of immediate political needs.

The first Equal Rights Amendment was introduced in Congress in 1923, by Alice Paul; then again in 1971, and in 1972, Congress passed it. Since 1972, 35 states have ratified the amendment. We are now faced with a time limit that is quickly diminishing. The major question everyone---is, Do we extend the deadline? Representative Elizabeth Holtzman, a New York, Democrat says, "The equal rights amendment is too important an issue to be cut off by an arbitrary time limit."

"The seven year time limit was chosen arbitrarily. Nobody had determined that seven years was really appropriate for this debate. Seven years was picked because it had been used--in some--but not all-- prior amendments. In fact, most of the amendments to the Constitution have never had any time limits."

"We now can see that the nature of the debate has been such that seven years is not adequate. I believe that Congress has the power and ought to extend the time period so that there can be a full informed debate, and so that the decision on ERA can be made by people who are properly informed."

To extend the time limit for the ERA, will be a major decision. This decision will be indicative of the American people's government---is Congress responsible and are women part of the American people?

Lynn Patten

How Dare They Vote Against the ERA

Notes from all over

This is Progress ?

---A report from the U.S. Commission on Civil Liberties has indicated that women of all races can be expected to earn less than 70 percent as much as white men similarly trained. The report notes that women still earn only half as much as white males and women with college degrees earn less than men with high school degrees.

Despite sixteen years of so-called progress, the commission study found that "the pattern has changed little" and there is "virtually no financial ladder" for women since there has been little or no improvement in the earnings of full-time working women between the ages of 20 and 40. And, In Our Government

---Women hold less than 7 percent of all elected offices. In the last 200 years, 12 women and 1,715 men have served in the U.S. Senate. (Most of the women were appointed to fill unexpired terms of their husbands and stayed in office an average of five months.) Only three women have ever been elected for full terms in the Senate. Only 18 out of 435 members of the House of Representatives are women, the same number as 40 years ago. There are no women in the U.S. Supreme Court and never have been.

EVEN WITH EVERYTHING AGAINST US WE ARE STILL TRYING

---Women now hold 40 percent of all jobs in this country and represent 70 percent of the growth in employment in the last decade.

Women, a statistical minority, represent 52 percent of the U.S. population.

Yvonne Baginski



Media Coverage

The media has failed again to print factual information so citizens can participate in the nation's decision making and self-government. This time it is amending the National Constitution by ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment.

I am enrolled at the University of California at Davis, and spent last summer as an intern with the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press, where I conducted a study analyzing the Los Angeles Times 1977 news coverage of the Equal Rights Amendment as it met or failed to meet three objective criteria: 1) Does the story tell what the ERA is? (Since it is only 58 words, all stories should tell what the 58 words are) 2) Does it tell the status of the amendment in that state in which it is located and/or nationally? 3) Does it tell where you can obtain additional information and if so, for one side or both?

Only 6% (100 lines out of approximately 3000) of the articles answered the three questions a citizen needs to know to take part in a democratic system. 94% of the lines of newsprint did not answer these questions.

Not one article stated whether or not California had ratified the amendment. The Times did not cover the Virginia, North Carolina, or Nevada rejection of the ERA in the month of February. Californians who vacation in Nevada might have found this information useful and chosen to boycott the state.

A recent poll showed that 55% of American women had never heard of the ERA. Of those who had, 73% did not know enough information to have an opinion for or against the amendment. I discovered in the entire year of 1977, the Los Angeles Times did not provide a source of information (name, address, or phone number) where citizens might go and find out more about the Equal Rights Amendment.

For More Information Contact:

Monica Smyth
412 Canon de Paraiso Ln.
La Canada, Ca. 91011
213-790-5923

Editors Note:

These States have not ratified the ERA

ALABAMA	MISSISSIPPI
ARIZONA	MISSOURI
ARKANSAS	NEVADA
FLORIDA	NORTH CAROLINA
GEORGIA	OKLAHOMA
ILLINOIS	SOUTH CAROLINA
LOUISIANA	UTAH
	VIRGINIA

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex" 1972

The Dream of a Common Language

by Adrienne Rich,
Norton, 1978

Beginning with Snapshots of a Daughter-in-Law (1963), Adrienne Rich's poetry has explored the nature of woman's reality, and has chronicled her consciousness of herself as a woman and her awareness of the power and terrors inherent in such explorations. The title poem in Snapshots, though written between 1958 and 1960, presages the feminist vision of the 1970's. "Well,/ she's long about her coming, who must be/ more merciless to herself than history./ Her mind full to the wind, I see her plunge/ breasted and glancing through the currents,/ taking the light upon her/ at least as beautiful as any boy/ or helicopter,/ poised, still coming,/ her fine blades making the air wince/ but her cargo/ no promise then:/ delivered/ palpable/ ours." In this collection the poet seems to see the emptiness and futility of her past conventional choices. "Was it worth while to lay--/ with infinite exertion--/ a roof I can't live under?" She is ready to break new ground, though unsure of her direction. "Even/ my tools are the wrong ones/ for what I have to do./ I'm naked, ignorant." (The Roofwalker) But a choice there must be: "Either you will/ go through this door/ or you will not go through." (Prospective Immigrants Please Note)

By 1973, when she published Diving into the Wreck, Rich's feminism had become explicit, and many of the poems in this collection delineate her anger. "I came to explore the wreck...I came to see the damage that was done." "Madness. Suicide.

Murder./ Is there no way out but these?" But another course begins to take shape. "Outside the frame of his dream we are stumbling up the hill/ hand in hand, stumbling and guiding each other/ over the scarred volcanic rock."

The poems collected in The Dream Of a Common Language are, in a sense, a culmination of much of Rich's thought and self-analysis over the last twenty years. In them she moves beyond a mere rejection of patriarchal society to affirm womans' power, its source, and its uses.

The title is a line from one of the poems in the collection, "Origins and History of Consciousness," in which Rich addresses head-on the themes of search for and confrontation with self, and the poet's (woman's) responsibility to communicate as clearly and honestly as possible the results of that confrontation. "No one lives in this room/ without confronting the whiteness of the wall/ behind the poems, planks of books,/ photographs of dead heroines/ Without contemplating last and late/ the true nature of poetry. The drive/ to connect. The dream of a common language." It is this dream of a language beyond lies, rhetoric, ritual, or "technology of silence" which is implicit in Rich's feminism and in her poetry.

At its best Adrienne Rich's poetry combines a lyric passion with a precise, unrelenting dissection of experience. Nowhere is this more evident than in "Twenty-One Love Poems". In this self-contained cycle, Rich chronicles a love affair with another woman. The poems celebrate the lover and their love, but refuse sentimenta-

lity, and at the affair's end, self-pity.

In "Natural Resources" Rich emphatically denies the androgynous solution she espoused in Diving into the Wreck. "I am the androgyne/ I am the living mind you fail to describe/ in your dead language." No longer does she say, "I am the mermaid whose dark hair/ streams black, the merman in his armoured body/ ...I am she; I am he." Instead she tells us, "There are words I cannot choose again:/ humanism androgyny/ Such words have no shame in them.../ their glint is too shallow." If androgyny is an inadequate answer, it is also too costly. "The phantom of the man-who-would-understand,/ the lost brother, the twin--/ for him did we leave our mothers/ deny our sisters, over and over?" Rich has translated the male/female dichotomy of androgyny to a far richer synthesis of mother-woman-sister-self. "Birth stripped our birthright from us,/ tore us from a woman, from women, from ourselves/ so early on/ ...Homesick for myself, for her--/ homesick as the fluted vault of desire/ articulates itself: I am the lover and the loved,? home and wanderer, she who splits/ firewood and she who knocks, a stranger/ in the storm, two women, eye to eye/ measuring each other's spirit, each other's limitless desire, a whole new poetry beginning here." (Transcendental Etude).

The Dream of a Common Language is a powerful and moving collection, one whose vision cannot be easily forgotten.

Whitney Rogge

Prop 6

con't from page 1

tive which is intended to deny the constitutional rights of school employees. He pointed out that if he can walk the length of the state "...then you can walk across the street to talk to your neighbor." He emphasized the necessity for all gay people to "come out" while acknowledging the personal hardships that can arise. He talked in terms of people complaining of vision problems since they may be seeing lavender all over the place.

Morris Kight, from the No on Briggs Initiative Committee made several good points. One, that the cost of Prop 6 will be ridiculous: trying cases will range from 75 to 200 million dollars a year. Two, he told of a law suite filed by the committee against the initiative which claims that the method of gathering signatures was illegal and the counting procedures were defective. The committee will be using any evidence they can gather to oppose the initiative including the fact that the type was not readable to people with poor eyesight. Three, he said that the committee had obtained a restraining order against Prop 6. He said "We must not believe that people cannot be reached..." and suggested we "build a continuing interest in all of our concerns..." by becoming a "...network of concerned people."

The talk from Lisa Katz and Mary

Bergen and the State officials were very brief. State Senator Alan Sieroty stated, "We will work with you to see that Prop. 6 is defeated." Mayor Phil Isenberg said he was "happy to be here in opposisiton to the Briggs initiative... let's go out and defeat it." Mary Begen said it was important to defeat the Briggs initiative "not just to protect teachers and gay teachers, but to protect the Constitution."

One of the unscheduled speakers, and a bit of a surprise, was majority floor leader of the Assembly, Howard Berman, who came out very strongly against the initiative by urging people to read it very carefully to understand how all-encompassing it really is. he cited that judging by this precedent single teachers could easily be next. He pointed out how amazing it was that Senator John Briggs could amass so much power when he is rated the lowest as an effectual senator among environmental groups, labor groups, and even with senior citizen groups. He said, "They are going to go on and eat up the rights of other people." He said this is not a "single issue campaign" and called the initiative "Bad Government" and "outrageous."

Another highlight of the rally was also an unscheduled speaker, Cheri Gordon. She spoke as a lesbian feminist and a teacher. Her message was strong and dynamic, insisting that they "drown the initiative in a can of orange juice."

She explained how difficult it would become for anyone who seeks to expand the narrow roles they are given in this sexist society, especially all feminists. She also acknowledged the present difficulties. She suggested that gay people remind heterosexuals that "We are your own."

Other issues raised by speakers at the rally are --the initiative can easily be used against poor and non-whites; that there are already enacted laws to protect children from abuse, and that the initiative violates the first amendment. Several speakers alluded to the fact that it was reminiscent of the NAZI regime.

Other speakers who were there includes a reverend from a Presbyterian Church in Rancho Cordova; Paul Weitig, President of Dignity International; Reverend Freda Smith, Pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC); and La Paula Turner, from California Coalition against the Briggs Initiative. Also present was a guitar group from MCC that sang songs during and before the rally.

The rally was small in attendance, yet, meaningful in terms of message and in terms of who came to speak. However, it was painfully evident that more support needs to be demonstrated. The address and phone number of the Sacramento Valley on-6 Committee is 1107 9th St. Room 1019, Sacramento, 95814 (916) 448-6N06.

Debbie Low
Jan Wilson

Reviews



118 Georgia O'Keeffe *Black Place #1* 1944

Georgia O'Keeffe

On display as part of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art's permanent collection is a Georgia O'Keeffe oil on canvas titled "Black Place #1." O'Keeffe's highly personal form of abstraction is revealed in this powerful and evocative painting depicting the hills of Abiquiu, New Mexico where O'Keeffe has spent much of her life. The deep crevices, smooth surfaces, and the subtle gradations of grays and pinks create a feeling of interior spaciousness and hidden mystery. O'Keeffe has turned the sensual curves and colors into an almost erotic display. What she conveys is an implied relationship between the central images of curvaceous folds and layers and the female body. As a woman viewing this work I identified strongly with O'Keeffe's image of the hills. The forms seemed to be describing a mysterious inner space, sometimes threatening and sometimes inviting, a parallel to cultural attitudes toward female sexuality.

Much of the excitement of O'Keeffe's paintings lies in the tension between the real and the abstract--nature and the spirit of nature. The abstract element in her work is due not so much to actual distortion, as it is to her discovery of nature's latent harmony. O'Keeffe has been inspired by the New Mexico landscape, its desert, canyons and waterfalls, as well as by the peace of living there alone so much of her life. She employs numerous Southwestern images--bleached bones, barren rolling hills, and desert blooms.

O'Keeffe has used these natural images to create a form language

O'Keeffe has used these natural images to create a form language that deals with a whole range of human experience. Her flower paintings are her most personal works. By taking a single blossom and enlarging it until the shapes fill the entire canvas, she has been able to generate strong elements of female sexual imagery. Using a photographic close-up technique, she reveals the exquisite recesses of calla lilies, orchids, and hollyhocks. A woman who views these paintings feels a close physical and emotional identification with them.

Georgia O'Keeffe is considered by some women artists, such as Judy Chicago, to have been the first woman artist to stand her ground and form her own artistic language which relates to what she feels rather than to what she sees. Defining her self was an implicit step toward challenging the culture and demanding that it adjust its definition of women to correspond to the reality of women's lives. Some women contend that O'Keeffe has been forced to isolate herself from the greater art community because of this self-assertion. Ironically, O'Keeffe avoids association and identification with other women artists and the idea of female art, because she considers such categories to be too limiting. In spite of her non-committal attitude, her work clearly reflects a female style and imagery. She has allowed herself to create naturally from within her own being and is not confined by the rules of the art society from which she came.

Linda Claus-Luger

MATRIX- Women's Art Collective

A group of 15 women set up a workshop of women artists to facilitate ways to find other artists and to set up a support group for themselves. It is evident that men already have support for their art and that women need something for women to get in touch with for themselves. They decided to rent a space in order to collect energy and this was the beginning of Matrix Women's Art Collective.

They plan to have poetry and music workshops to expand and bring ideas from all of the art forms which allow them to pull together many types of programs and exhibitions in the future. Of course, that is the meaning behind Matrix, a center space from which many things grow.

Matrix was designed to be a women oriented and initiated workshop, but would be exclusive of men who are interested in participating in classes. Out of the original 15 members they have formed an advisory council of membership, and once a week they have a get-together to share ideas and conversation. They have opened up a second category of membership, participating members that pay \$5.00 a month which allows them to be a part of classes or workshops of their interest, and help by giving feedback as to what they would like to see happen. This minimal fee helps to pay a small portion of the expenses needed to keep Matrix going, but does not, of course, cover the costs of tools, art supplies, and equipment. They are asking for donations, or even loans for these kinds of supplies or furniture, etc. Anyone who may be interested in helping support the idea of a women's art collective are asked to donate these items, attend the open workshops and be present at two "Art and Etc. Sales" on September 30 and October 1, from 10:00 to 4:00.

In a strong way the group has been a consciousness raising experience for all women involved. If you are interested in being a part of that experience please call or write Matrix Women's Art Collective at 3127 Broadway, Sac. Ca. 95817, 456-8717

Debbie Low

Jan Wilson

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Linda Tillery IN CONCERT

On Saturday, October 14, the Sacramento Women's Center and Bookstore Inc. present Linda Tillery and Band at Sacramento City College Auditorium. The concert will be a fundraiser for the Women's Center and tickets will be sold on a sliding scale of \$4, \$5, and \$6. For ticket information call the Sacramento Women's Center, 442-4657. Child care will be provided at the concert and the auditorium is wheelchair accessible.

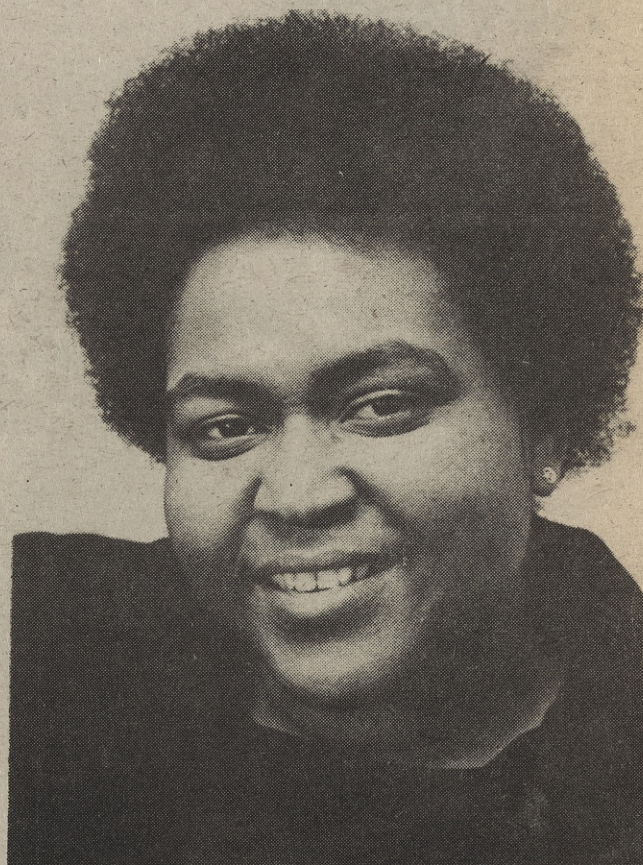
Linda Tillery is the kind of artist that seems to arrive complete with status and reputation the first time one hears her. And in fact, Linda has been "around" for a meaningful while, through the time of San Francisco's leadership on the rocky ship of roll, when she sang and sang with the Loading Zone, sharing the bill at the Fillmore with such high recognizability talents as John Mayall, Arlo Guthrie, Chuck Berry, Buddy Miles, Cream, Iron Butterfly, B.B. King, Led Zeppelin, Jeff Beck and Janis Joplin. On the occasion she shared the bill with Janis, Philip Elwood headlined his review in the San Francisco Herald Examiner, GREAT VOCALISTS SHAKE THE FILLMORE, and went on to write: "Two...singers almost lifted the Fill-



more Auditorium off its foundations last night. Janis Joplin, responding to a 'welcome home' cheer from the jammed rock-concert hall, wailed and moaned and turned on the crowd. Linda Tillery, a big bright 19 year old from the Fillmore district, took over on the next set, along with the Loading Zone octet, and practically blew out the fuses."

She was playing a lot in the Bay Area then with the Loading Zone, and as happens, they were scooped up, contracted, recorded and spewed out by one of the BIG record companies to meet a fate similar to many, being lost in the shuffle around the turntable. The band went on for six years and through many personnel changes and finally broke up in 1973. Linda took the free time to sort her ideas and values into keep and discard, deciding eventually to reexplore her initial musical roots, started when as a child she had sung in church choirs. She joined an a cappella singing group of women called the Gente Goscélaires, none of whom were "professional", and did political gigs, all of them benefits for women. At the same time she kept her "more professional" life going by recording with Santana on his album by the same name, plus two albums with Coke Escovedo, Coke and Disco Fantasy. She also sang on Boz Scaggs' My Time and on Lenny White's Big City. All of these albums garnered considerable airplay and made Linda's name familiar to those who pay attention to what they like.

It was during one of the concerts for women that Linda was approached by a sister musician and asked why she wasn't recording for Olivia. Linda wasn't sure--she felt that she didn't know very much about the company and did not want to associate herself with any group whose musical/political outlook was not in harmony with her own. She was invited to attend a negotiation meeting between BeBe K'Roche and Olivia, and sat in



while they worked out their responsibilities and aims around their upcoming Olivia album. Linda was intrigued, and after talking with the Olivia collective, wound up producing the BeBe K'Roche album and negotiating for her own solo album, which now released is called simply (or complexly) Linda Tillery.

Linda sees herself as having double responsibilities as a musician. She feels strongly that at a black woman she must struggle against a double oppression. She hopes that her music will give strength to other women as they too strive to attain freedom that comes when restrictions based on race and sex are eliminated. Linda puts it this way: "We are proud of our level of musicianship. We want to get it across that it is possible to product high quality music. We are hoping that as a band we can present a different image, a way for women to see the needs of working together and supporting each other".

Olivia Records

Mary Watkins, who performed in Sacramento last February with Holly Near, will be playing with Linda Tillery. Other Band members include Colleen Stewart, Vicki Randle and Barbara Cobb.

The Band will be leaving for an East Coast tour on October 17, so make sure you see them now !!!!

GSAP vs. LANG - cont from page 1

racial discrimination. Mr. Tamsey fired three black women employees under the guise of "budgetary cut-backs." The women filed a racial discrimination grievance because Tamsey kept on another woman who had less seniority and less skills than the women who were laid off. (She had been working three months compared to the three years for the other three employees, and she typed 19 words per minute compared to 82, 75, and 45 wpm.)

Tamsey was found guilty of the racial discrimination charges. Instead of being dismissed, Tamsay was demoted and presently holds

a position at GSAP which deals with affirmative action.

Karen Lang has gone through a grievance procedure with Sacramento Yolo Employment and Training Agency (SYETA). The SYETA resolution of the case suggested that Lang be reinstated at GSAP and instructed Bob Banks to meet with her in August to talk about reinstatement. They have not met and Lang has not been reinstated. She is now taking action in the courts, and feels "that Mr. Banks inability to understand the program of GSAP as well as women (staff and clients) compounds the inner problems of GSAP,

which in turn causes the failure of the program." Her energies are now going into the court case and Northern California Women for Apprenticeship, a non-profit organization which, until recently, was affiliated with GSAP. NCWA's purpose is to place women in nontraditional jobs such as construction and to place women in trade unions. Karen Lang, Juanita Williams and several other women have worked hard to make NCWA work and recently received SETA funding for the program. Karen Lang will continue fighting for women--in the courts and on the job.

Eileen Gaines & JoAnn